Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 1, 3, 17 and 19, and cancel claims 32 and 33 as shown in the following listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A feedforward equalizer for equalizing a sequence of signal samples received from a remote transmitter, the feedforward equalizer ~~having a gain and~~ being included in a receiver, ~~the receiver having~~ having ~~a timing recovery module for setting a sampling phase and~~ a decoder, the feedforward equalizer comprising:

(a)   a non-adaptive filter ~~receiving~~ operable to receive the signal samples and ~~producing~~ to produce a filtered signal, the non-adaptive filter being operable to produce a precursor in the filtered signal, the precursor being an indicator preceding a signal sample to facilitate timing recovery; and

(b)   a gain stage coupled to the non-adaptive filter, the gain stage allowing adjustment of the gain of the feedforward equalizer by adjusting the amplitude of the filtered signal, the amplitude of the filtered signal being adjusted so as to fit in an operational range of the decoder[[;]] ~~wherein the feedforward equalizer does not affect the sampling phase setting of the timing recovery module of the receiver~~.

2.   (Original) The feedforward equalizer of claim 1 wherein the feedforward equalizer does not enhance noise.

3.   (currently amended) The feedforward equalizer of claim 1 wherein the ~~non-adaptive filter produces a precursor included in the filtered signal, the precursor being an indicator preceding each of the signal samples to facilitate~~ receiver has a timing recovery module for setting a sampling phase and wherein the feedforward equalizer does not directly affect the sampling phase setting of the timing recovery module of the receiver.

4-6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Original) The feedforward equalizer of claim 1 wherein the non-adaptive filter substantially eliminates from the received signal samples intersymbol interference introduced by pulse shaping at the remote transmitter.

8-10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Original) The feedforward equalized of claim 1 wherein adjustment of the gain of the feedforward equalizer is programmable.

12-14. (Cancelled)

15.   (Original) The feedforward equalizer of claim 1 further comprises a noise cancellation stage, the noise cancellation stage subtracting from the filtered signal a noise signal received from a noise computing module of the receiver and producing a noise-reduced filtered signal.

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (currently amended) A method for equalizing a sequence of input samples received at a receiver from a remote transmitter, the receiver having a ~~timing recovery module for setting a sampling phase and~~ a decoder, the method comprising:

(a)   filtering the input samples using a non-adaptive filter to produce a filtered signal, said filtering including producing a precursor in the filtered signal, the precursor being an indicator preceding a signal sample to facilitate timing recovery ; and

(b)   adjusting the amplitude of the filtered signal so that the amplitude of the filtered

signal fits in operational range of the decoder[[;]]

~~wherein operations (a) and (b) do not affect the sampling phase setting of the timing recovery module of the receiver.~~

18.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein filtering the input samples and adjusting the amplitude of the filtered signal do not amplify noise.

19.   (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein ~~filtering the input samples includes providing a precursor in the filtered signal, the precursor being an indicator preceding each of the signal samples in the filtered signal to facilitate~~ the receiver has a timing recovery module for setting a sampling phase and wherein operations (a) and (b) do not directly affect the sampling phase setting of the timing recovery module of the receiver.

20-22. (Cancelled)

23.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein filtering the input samples includes substantially eliminating from the received signal samples intersymbol interference introduced by pulse shaping at the remote transmitter.

24-26. (Cancelled)

27.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein adjustment of the amplitude of the filtered signal is programmable.

28-59. (Cancelled)